



City of Columbia Press Releases

December 29, 2013 – January 4, 2014

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, December 30, 2013

Contact: Kim Mitchell at 803-545-3100

Main Street ICE to Host WOW! New Year's Eve Carnival

Ring in the new year at Main Street ICE's WOW! New Year's Eve Carnival on Tuesday, December 31, 2013 from 4-10 p.m. at Boyd Plaza. The rink will stay open until 12 a.m. on New Year's Eve.

The WOW! New Year's Eve Carnival will feature rides, games, karaoke, craft exhibitors and food and drink vendors. There is a one price skate of \$8.

The rink is currently operating on special hours to coincide with local school districts' winter break schedules. Special hours as follows:

Monday -Thursday, 12 - 9 p.m.

Friday, 12 - 10:00 p.m.

Saturday, 10 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Sunday, 1:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

The special operating hours will end on Friday, January 3, 2013. The regular hours of operation will begin on Saturday, January 4, 2014 and are as follows:

Monday -Thursday, 4 - 9 p.m.

Friday, 4 - 10:00 p.m.

Saturday, 10 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Sunday, 1:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Main Street ICE will be open through Monday, January 20, 2014.

Normal skate fees are \$10 for adults and \$8 for children ages 12 and under, as well as for seniors (55+) and active duty military. Skate rentals are included in the fees. Reservations are available Monday - Thursday only, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for groups of twenty or more.

For more information on Main Street Ice or for group reservations, contact City of Columbia Parks and Recreation at (803) 545-3100.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, December 30, 2013

Contact: Samantha Yager at 803-545-3020

Free Financial Seminar Hosted By Community Development

The City Of Columbia's Community Development Department will host a free financial seminar for the public on Saturday, January 18, 2014 from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m.

Topics of discussion will include:

- Banking - Purpose of a Bank and how banking should work for you
- Savings- Importance of Savings and creative strategies to save on a limited budget
- Budgeting-Budgeting Activity and Reviewing the Overall Picture of your budget
- Building Credit-How to build a solid financial background
- Types of Loans- Smart ways of borrowing and is borrowing a smart way of building your wealth
- Repairing Derogatory Credit-How to repair damage that has been done to your credit
- Credit Scams-How to recognize unlawful collection activities
- Fair Housing Laws-Equal rights for all - Housing discrimination is illegal

The free seminar will be held at the Earlewood Park Community Center, located at 1113 Parkside Dr.

All those interested should call 803-545-3373 and ask for Felicia Wilks, Tracey Brown or Bryan Graves.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, January 2, 2014

Contact: Public Relations, Media & Marketing at 803.545.3020

City Of Columbia to Host Tax Credits and Incentives Workshop for Local Business Owners

The City Of Columbia, the Columbia Empowerment Zone, Inc., the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce and RetroTax have partnered to host a tax credits and incentives workshop for business owners on Tuesday, January 28, 2014 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce, located at 930 Richland St.

This workshop is designed to educate business owners on tax incentives that are available through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Renewal Program. Businesses can claim these incentives for 2013, and up to 3 prior years.

"We are very excited to partner with the City of Columbia and the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce for this workshop," said *Alan Newcomb, CEO of RetroTax*. "At this event, we aim to ensure the local businesses in the Columbia-Sumter Empowerment Zone receive every available tax credit and incentive to which it's entitled. We look forward to helping them reduce their tax liability while demonstrating our commitment to excellent customer service."

To benefit from this specific program, the business must be located within the Columbia-Sumter Empowerment Zone. The zone includes a majority of Columbia's business districts. Business owners can check the physical address online at www.hud.gov/crlocator.

The workshop is free and open to all business owners. Online registration is available [here](#) or visit the City's website at www.columbiasc.net.

For more information, please contact the Columbia Empowerment Zone, Inc. at 803-733-8438. For more information on Chamber membership, please contact Jennifer King at 803-733-1121.

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About RetroTax

Established in 1996, RetroTax® helps businesses navigate complex legislation associated with finding and securing federal and state tax credits. These tax credits can be based on geographic regions in which your business operates, or on the demographic characteristics of your employees. In addition to finding and acting upon current and retroactive program eligibility, RetroTax® helps businesses establish policies and practices to create greater opportunities for receiving additional tax credits in the future. For more information, please visit www.retrotax-aci.com or call 317-925-0553.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 2, 2014

Contact: Victoria Kramer (vlkramer@columbiasc.net) at 545-3227

City to Host Fats, Oils & Grease Workshops for Commercial Kitchens

Columbia, SC – The City of Columbia will host two training sessions on managing fats, oils & grease in commercial kitchens on:

- Tuesday, January 7th from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM at the Lourie Center (1650 Park Circle), and
- Wednesday, January 8th from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM at the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center in Martin Luther King Jr. Park on Greene Street.

Managers and owner/operators of commercial kitchens should attend. The two training sessions will focus on fats, oils & grease management to meet City sewer and stormwater regulations.

Attendees will learn about:

- Recent changes to the City's fats, oils & grease regulations;
- Grease traps, grease interceptors and other grease capturing devices; and
- Best management practices for handling fats, oils & grease in commercial kitchens.

City regulatory staff will also be on hand to answer any questions about the City's fats, oils & grease inspection program and stormwater inspection program.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 2, 2014

Contact: Jerre Threatt @ 803-545-3216 | jfthreatt@columbiasc.net

CITY RECEIVES \$20,000 IN LOCAL & FEDERAL GRANTS TO HELP STABILIZE HISTORIC HOMES IN THE GRANBY MILL VILLAGE

Columbia, South Carolina – The City of Columbia’s Planning Division recently received two \$10,000 grants to fund the Granby Mill Village Stabilization Program, a preservation initiative designed to stabilize historic mill houses located within the boundaries of the Granby Mill Village Historic District. The grants were awarded by the Richland County Conservation Commission and the National Park Service. The National Park Service grant will be administered through the South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

The Granby Mill Village features the largest collection of architecturally similar buildings in the city, of which most were built in the 1890s. The area is listed nationally in the National Register of Historic Places and locally as an Architectural Conservation District. The goal of the Granby Mill Village Stabilization Program is to repair building components that have failed due to water infiltration. Typical projects will include roof repair, window and siding rehabilitation, and structural repair. By strategically focusing on stabilization repairs, the program will serve as an intervention tool to save houses from further deterioration and restore structural integrity.

The program will be divided into Level I and Level II projects based on the amount of private investment. A minimum investment threshold of 20% of the grant amount from individual property owners will be required. Level I projects will require a minimum investment of \$1,200, of which \$1,000 will be reimbursable upon completion and final approval. Level II projects will require a minimum investment of \$2,400, of which \$2,000 will be reimbursable upon completion and final approval. The grant program will have the potential to impact up to 20 individual buildings with a total investment of at least \$24,000.

Applications for the Granby Mill Village Stabilization Program are available at the City’s Planning Division and the City’s website. The application deadline for the program is January 31, 2014. Stabilization efforts will take place between March 1, 2014 and May 30, 2014. Contact the Planning Division at 803-545-3216 or jfthreatt@columbiasc.net for more information.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 2, 2014

Contact: Michael Wukela @ 803.413.5052

City Inauguration Ceremonies Today

COLUMBIA, SC -- Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin invites everyone join him, his family and his fellow members of City Council tomorrow at City Hall for the City of Columbia 2014 Inaugural Ceremony.

The ceremony is scheduled to begin promptly at 5:00 PM and will feature the inauguration of and remarks by Mayor Benjamin as well as Council Members Tameika Isaac Devine and Sam Davis all of whom were re-elected on November 5.

The Citizen's Inaugural Reception will be held immediately following the ceremony.

All events are **free** and **open to the public**.

WHAT: City of Columbia 2014 Inaugural Ceremony

Mayor Steve Benjamin
Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine (At-Large)
Councilman Sam Davis (District 1)

WHERE: City Council Chambers

City Hall
1737 Main Street, Columbia, SC

WHEN: 5:00 PM on Friday, January 3, 2014

For additional information, please contact Michael Wukela at 803.413.5052 or via email at mcwukela@columbiasc.net.

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